

W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING  
M I N U T E S  
March 10, 2009 ☞ Woodson Library

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Attendance:** Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Sandy Barron, Peter Brandman, Dung Pham, Carole Post, Dixie Mayall, Nell Hurley, Chris Hoover, Maureen Burt, Jeff Nelson, Joy Salpini, Joyce Bouchard, Wendy Hecker, Donna Greer, Cheryl King, Stefan Schwartz, Annie Schwartz, Rita Manfredi-Shutler, Vicki Chamlee

**I. Welcome**—President Catherine Potter called the meeting to order.

**II. Principal's Report—Jeff Yost**

*A. Renovation*—A new Kiss & Ride, accessible from Pickett Road entrance, will be built this summer along with widened bus lane. Faculty parking will remain out front. Blocked Whitacre entrance to be filled in with grass. *Parent request:* install a gate instead to accommodate traffic after hours.

*B. Introduced teacher representative*—Dixie Mayall. She will be serving as the teacher representative to the Board for the remainder of the school year, as well as next year. She will help recruit additional teachers and staff to become members.

*C. Proposed 8-period day (slide presentation)*—After reviewing other schools' schedules, developed a workable, 8-period bell schedule proposal. During that day's Instructional Council (IC) meeting, discussed proposed change; will retain flexible rotation (block) schedule. Third period would be a "return period" for review, cooperative work, homework time, or instructional time. Will continue to seek faculty, student leaders', and parents' input, and explore other models while making refinements. Goals are to get rid of seventh period, offer review period for students and a summative period for teachers, and accommodate part-time teachers' classes. Students will return to each of the classes (two per day) on an eight-day rotation. One of the eight returns will be a student choice return of 35 minutes, and in all seven of the other returns attendance will be taken.

**III. Minutes**—Approved February 2009 meeting's minutes.

**IV. Treasurer's Report—Sandy Barron**—*Spring fund-raiser letter campaign:* only \$2,500 (out of estimated \$10,000) raised thus far. The low amount of funds earned this year continues to be a concern. Treasurer's Report approved.

**V. New Business**

*A. Teachers' and Club Sponsors' Funding Requests—Jeff Nelson*—Handout outlined 8 requests and recommended funding amounts. Spring requests held at \$2,100 because of budgetary concerns. Discussed informal rule that groups that receive money in the fall do not also get funds in the spring. Motion approved: OK'd requests as written with the caveat that Jeff will ascertain whether the ESOL 2 class that requested funds is a different class from the one that received funds in the fall. If they are different classes, the

new ESOL request will be funded as well. If the two requests came from the same class, it will not be approved.

*B. Woodson Coalition—Cheryl King*—Provided handouts on upcoming events: March 18, “Saturday Night in the Suburbs,” including Woodson, Frost, and feeder schools’ sixth graders; March 28, “2009 Prevention Conference,” all-day event at Oakton H.S.; April 16, “Parent Wake-Up Call: Preventing Substance Abuse,” Chantilly H.S., 7 p.m.; April 22, 40-min. Woodson student assembly, featuring Brandon Silveria. Cavalier Hall setup will only accommodate 400 students; Tom Marr will determine attendees. *Parent suggestion:* record and send video of speech to classrooms that request it.

*C. Bylaws—Catherine Potter*—Virginia PTSA requires bylaw reviews and any amendments be submitted every 5 years; need to accomplish by year’s end. Note: WTW PTSA is bound by county PTSA rulings. Can be counterproductive (e.g., county supported SLEEP, but WTW PTSA did not). Will email bylaws to board members and those present for review (also available online at PTSA website). To comply with county rules, will insert notice for all PTSA members in next PTSA newsletter (deadline March 23), and vote on proposed changes at April meeting. *Remarks:* if PTSA dissociates from county PTSA, will lose discount on insurance and will have to zero money account.

*D. FCPS Bell Schedule Changes (not SLEEP)—Catherine Potter*—Will not be implemented next year. It is likely that there will be minor changes in the bus schedules, if the School Board decides to move forward with many of the cost savings built into the proposed new bus schedules.

## **VI. President’s Report—Catherine Potter**

*A. It’s Academic/MUN (for Mr. Gee)*—Woodson made semifinals for *It’s Academic*, April 25, 11 a.m., versus Holton Arms and Georgetown Day School. Show will air June 13. Model UN group won first place at several competitions and won third place at a 98-school competition. PTSA supports both groups through the teacher funding requests.

*B. FCPS Budget Meeting at WTW*—Went well. Tessie Wilson and Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner took the school tour. Ilryong Moon also appeared.

*C. Officers and New Board Members (2009–10)*—Need PTSA volunteers. Member of Woodson’s front office staff has volunteered as a representative.

*D. Annandale High School Redistricting*—Will not affect Woodson.

*E. Teacher of the Year Criteria*—New for 2008–9, establishing criteria by which PTSA will choose a nominee. First suggested criterion—must be a PTSA member—would only allow 4 teachers to be considered. Will not consider membership criterion this year, but will institute for 2009–10. Award should go to teachers who help the community and reach out to parents and students. Email comments to PTSA president. *Suggestion:* Mrs. Mayall suggested putting PTSA membership envelopes in teachers’ boxes next fall, which we are already doing, but possibly distributing them at another time other than the first of the year to facilitate the process of joining.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

*A. Athletic Boosters—Maureen Burt*—Checking account at \$15,000; capital campaign at \$36,000 (started a Facebook page for donations). Winter sports awards given. Gym under renovation; hope to install digital scoreboard by volleyball season.

Discussed marquee. Meet the Coaches Night canceled (weather). Merchandise available online. Need another fund-raiser to replace golf tournament.

*B. Hospitality—Maureen Burt*—Teacher Appreciation Lunch moved to April 23 or 30; traditional May date conflicts with testing. Need coordinators for next year.

*C. Baccalaureate—Chris Hoover*—Former 5-term congressman from Kansas, Jim Ryun, has agreed to speak. Motion approved to invite him as speaker. Still needs a rabbi to participate. Please forward suggestions.

*D. Cavalier Cruise—Joy Salpini*—Out of 530 seniors, 240 tickets sold thus far. Price goes up in April. Fund-raising: *1964* show only brought in \$564 for Cav Cruise. Spring flowers, yard signs, and raffle are the last fund-raisers. Sent out donation letters, and looking for ways to cut budget. Need volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

**Next meeting: April 14, 7:00 p.m.,**

**Library.**

*Amendment, per April 14, 2009, meeting:* Nell Hurley left the meeting before Membership discussion.